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School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Fall 2011

Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations and Peace Process

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SYLLABUS
Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations and Peace Process
DIPL-6116, Section AA
John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University
Fall 2011

Time: Thursday, 4:00 – 6:10 pm
Location: Corrigan 65
Instructor: Mr. Chris Ferrero
Office: 117 McQuaid Hall
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 2:00 – 3:30
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to give students extensive knowledge of the historical, political, and cultural dynamics affecting the search for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This is not a course on diplomatic negotiations that uses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a case study. Some knowledge of negotiating-table dynamics will come from this course. However, we seek to place the conflict and its attendant negotiations into a broader context and to richly understand this deeply entrenched conflict. We examine the history of Zionism and the Arab-Israeli conflict writ large, including a look at Israel's relations with the Arab states. As such, the first several weeks of the course approach the topic historically and chronologically. Students are nonetheless expected to don their political science hats during these weeks and provide critical insights that leverage political science theories and themes. Understanding the historical roots and patterns of the conflict is essential to understanding the obstacles to peace today. In the second half of the course, we will take a turn toward liberal and constructivist approaches of political science. This will entail looking inside of the Israeli and Palestinian nations to ascertain how much domestic politics and culture influence the behavior and decisions of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators and leaders. There is a common tendency among lay observers to treat Israeli and Palestinian societies monolithically and to apply simple stereotypes. However, both societies grapple with issues of diversity and national identity which complicate their politics and the search for peace.

Requirements and Expectations:

The professor will indeed teach, yet students should approach this course as a seminar and come prepared to actively participate. If you never speak, you probably should not expect to receive an 'A.' Regular oral demonstration of your engagement with the material is a key part of the evaluation process.

Students will write **SEVEN** one-page, single-spaced "Briefing Memos." This Memo is to consist of *no more than eight* bullet points that identify the key themes of the week's readings as well as the student's analytical observations. Students should try to generate policy-relevant observations from the

readings. Put another way, pretend that the professor is the Secretary of State. Your duty as student is to brief the Secretary on the pages that you have read. If you identify something as significant or policy-relevant, explain *how* it is so. For those weeks which focus on the history of the conflict, please extract and emphasize those themes that played a key role in putting the conflict on a certain trajectory and/or that remain significant today. History is replete with facts in which one can drown. This is especially true of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Of all of the facts that you will come across, emphasize those that best pass the “So What?” test. Bullet points may be one sentence, but they will often be concise paragraphs. *It is at the discretion of the student to determine which weeks (s)he will write a Briefing Memo.*

Briefing Memos will receive a mark of check, check-plus, or check-minus. Students should not labor over them for an extended period of time. Marks will be incorporated into consideration of one’s final participation grade.

Graded Written Assignments:

Mid-Term Exam: An in-class mid-term exam will be given on **October 20th**. Further information and instructions will follow.

Final Paper: In lieu of a final exam, students will be asked to write a final paper. It will be **due at noon on Thursday, December 15th, 2011**. Submission will be electronic. Required length will be roughly ten double-spaced pages, though this is subject to minor change. Additional information and instructions will follow.

Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation & Briefing Memos: 34%

Midterm Exam: 33%

Final Paper: 33%

Required Books:

Students are required to purchase the following seven books for this course. Additional readings will be provided in electronic format. Electronic readings will be posted on Blackboard unless otherwise noted.

- Benny Morris: *Righteous Victims* (2001)
- William Quandt: *Peace Process* (2001 or 2005 edition)
- Walter Laqueur & Barry Rubin, eds.: *The Israel-Arab Reader* (7th edition)
- Baruch Kimmerling: *The Invention and Decline of Israeliness* (2005)
- Rashid Khalidi: *Palestinian Identity – The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (2010, but 1997 version is okay if necessary)
- Tamara Cofman Wittes, ed.: *How Israelis and Palestinians Negotiate* (2005)
- John Mearsheimer & Stephen Walt: *The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy* (2007)

These books will be ordered by the Seton Hall Bookstore, but may also be found at reasonable prices online. Online purchases may be more efficient.

The schedule of topics and readings is as follows. *The professor retains the right to make minor changes to the schedule and menu of readings and assignments, and promises to give ample notice of any changes.*

Week 1 (Sep 1): Greeting and Introduction

Week 2 (Sep 8): Zionism to the Eve of World War II

Morris, pp. 3-160

Laqueur & Rubin (L&R), pp. 3-51

Week 3 (Sep 15): The Birth of Modern Israel to the Suez Crisis

Morris, 161-301

L&R, 55-89 (top)

Week 4 (Sep 22): The 1967 War and the Emergence of Organized, Violent Resistance

Morris, 302-386

L&R, 89-142

Quandt, 23-52

Week 5 (Sep 29): The Camp David Accords

Morris, 444-493

Quandt, 177-242

L&R, 143-163, 194-200, 203-229, 234-239

Optional:

Morris, 387-443

Quandt, Chapter 5

Week 6 (Oct 6): The Intifada to Camp David II

Morris, 561-675

L&R, 341-358 (top), 413-425 (mid), 428-433 (mid), 436 (btm) – 439, 501 (btm) – 521

Week 7 (Oct 13): A Closer Look at the Clinton Administration's Peace Efforts

Martin Indyk, *Innocent Abroad* (on Blackboard): 288-415

Quandt, 321-376

Week 8 (Oct 20): In-Class Mid-Term Exam – No Reading or Briefing Memos

Week 9 (Oct 27): Culture, Domestic Politics, and Negotiations

Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization*, 1988 (on Blackboard)

Wittes, entire book

Week 10 (Nov 3): Palestinian Identity

Khalidi, entire book (you may skim chapters 3 and 4)

Week 11 (Nov 10): Israeli Identity

Kimmerling, entire book

Week 12 (Nov 17): Final Thoughts on Culture & and a First Close Look at American Domestic Politics

Brenda Schaffer, Ed. *The Limits of Culture*, chapters 1 and 2 (on Blackboard)

Matt Evans, "Exacerbating Social Cleavages: The Media's Role in Israel's Religious-Secular Conflict," *The Middle East Journal*, spring 2011 (on Blackboard)

William Miles, "Border Pedagogy in Israel," *The Middle East Journal*, spring 2011 (on Blackboard)

Mearsheimer & Walt, Introduction

Quandt, Chapter 1

Note: Possible additional reading TBD. We may also use this week to being talking about the George W. Bush administration's approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace and continue to work it into the final few weeks of the course.

Week 13 (Nov 24): No Class – Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 14 (Dec 1): The Israel Lobby

Mearsheimer & Walt, 24-228

Week 15 (Dec 8): Recent Developments and Prospects for the Future

Nathan Witkin, "The Interspersed Nations-State System: A Two-State/One-Land Solution for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," *The Middle East Journal*, winter 2011 (on Blackboard)

Leila Farsakh, "The One-State Solution and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Palestinian Challenges and Prospects," *The Middle East Journal*, winter 2011 (on Blackboard)

****Additional Readings TBD**

Note: This week will likely include an examination of peace efforts under the Obama administration.